

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. New claims 13 and 14 have been added.

Embodiments of the Present Invention

As shown in Fig. 3, one of the embodiments of the present invention is directed to a camera that includes: an image display 10 for displaying an image; a touch panel 12 for determining a pressure applied on a surface thereof, the touch panel being arranged over the image display; and a controller 38 for controlling operations of the camera according to the pressure determined by the touch panel 12.

As illustrated in Fig. 6, the controller 38 performs a first control (such as an image-recording preparation) when the pressure applied on the touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value (T1), and performs a second control (such as an image recording) when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value (T2) larger than the first predetermined value.

As stated in page 12, line 4-24, another embodiment of the present invention is directed to a camera that includes: a touch panel that detects continuous changes in a pressure being applied on a surface thereof and outputting a signal indicative of the continuous changes; and a controller for continuously varying a

speed of change of a parameter (such as a zoom rate, a frame forwarding speed, etc.) based on the signal.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

(a) Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-8, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (U.S. Pat. Appl. Pub. 2002/0110354. Hereinafter, referred to as Ikeda '354). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ikeda '354 discloses a camera unit having a touch panel 18a provided on an LCD 18. As Ikeda '354 states in page 4, paragraph [0068] and page 4, paragraph [0076], the touch panel 18a senses the touch of a finger or a pen, for example, by a pressure change, and outputs a signal to a touch panel detecting circuit 19.

The circuit 19 detects a position coordinate of a point of contact on the touch panel 18a and sends it to the microcomputer. In Ikeda '354, however, the circuit 19 or any other circuit does not perform "a first control when the pressure applied on said touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Ikeda '354 does not disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 1.

Claim 5, variously dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for their dependency upon claim 1.

Claims 4 and 7-8 have been amended to depend upon new claim 13, and are allowable at least for their dependency upon claim 13.

Claim 11 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with respect to claim 1. More specifically, Ikeda '354 does not disclose or even suggest the "controller" that performs "a first control when the pressure applied on said touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and" performs "a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value," as recited in claim 11.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

(b) Claims 1, 5, 9, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (U.S. Pat. Appl. Pub. 2002/0105582. Hereinafter, referred to as Ikeda '582). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ikeda '582 discloses an electric camera having a LCD panel 29 mounted with a touch screen 30. As stated in page 4, paragraph [0054], the touch screen 30 senses pressing operations thereof and supplies a signal to an MPU 26 as positional information indicating

the corresponding position in the screen. The MPU 26 controls a lens driving section 31 and an exposure control section 32.

Ikeda '582 however, does not perform "a first control when the pressure applied on said touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Ikeda '582 does not disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 1.

Claim 5, variously dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for their dependency upon claim 1.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend upon new claim 13, and is allowable at least for their dependency upon claim 13.

Claim 11 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with respect to claim 1. More specifically, Ikeda '582 does not disclose or even suggest the "controller" that performs "a first control when the pressure applied on said touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and" performs "a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value," as recited in claim 11.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

(c) Claims 1, 4, 5, and 9-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (USP 5,671,014). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ito is directed to a video apparatus having a resistance film type touch panel 11 mounted on a display screen of an LCD panel 9. An analog switch section 20 applies predetermined voltages to electrodes provided in the touch panel 11 such that X and Y coordinates can be detected.

Ito, however, does not perform "a first control when the pressure applied on said touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Ito does not disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 1.

Claim 5, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for their dependency upon claim 1.

Claims 4 and 9-10 have been amended to depend upon new claim 13, and are allowable at least for their dependency upon claim 13.

Claim 11 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with respect to claim 1. More specifically, Ito does not disclose or even suggest the "controller" that performs "a first control when the pressure applied on said touch

panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and" performs "a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value," as recited in claim 11.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda '354 in view of Cho (USP 5,396,287). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 has been amended to depend from new claim 13, and is allowable at least for the reasons stated with respect to claim 13.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

(b) Claims 1-3 and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrock et al. (USP 5,923,908) in view of Tani et al. (U.S. Pat. Appl. Pub. 2002/0075244). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Schrock discloses a camera having a touch sensing LCD screen 22 connected to a microprocessor 30 (refer to Fig. 3). As stated in col. 4, lines 6-9, the microprocessor 30 receives signals from a

touch sensitive aspect 34 the screen 22 which indicates the location of a user's finger or other instrument.

Schrock, however, does not perform "a first control when the pressure applied on said touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Schrock does not disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 1.

Tani discloses a video or information processing apparatus having a touch panel 12. As stated in page 7, paragraph [0137], three sorts of operations are employed as the operations of the touch panel 12, i.e., (1) to lightly depress, (2) to strongly depress, and (3) to drag. As stated in page 9, paragraphs [0151] and [0153], when an operator lightly depress a position within a video region 200 by his finger, the camera task is set in such a manner that the object displayed on the position depressed by the finger can be easily observed. If a position within the video display region is strongly depressed by an operator, an object displayed at the position of the finger may be operated.

Tani, however, does not perform "a first control when the pressure applied on said touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and performing a second control when the

pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value," as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Tani does not disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, even assuming, *arguendo*, that Schrock and Tani can be combined, Schrock in view of Tani fails to disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 1.

Applicants also disagrees with the Examiner's allegation with respect to Schrock, in page 9-10 of the Office Action, that "when the shutter icon 28 is initially touch[ed], the pressure would be obviously less than when the user's finger is slid in the direction of the arrow shown in Fig. 2."

Although this allegation is now irrelevant to the patentability of the rejected claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the pressure when the shutter icon 28 is initially touched and the pressure when the user's finger is slid in the direction of the arrow have no mutual relationship whatsoever. Apparently, the pressure when the icon 28 is initially touched can be less than or equal to or greater than the pressure when the finger is slid over the arrow.

Claims 2-3, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency upon claim 1.

Claim 11 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with respect to claim 1. More specifically, claim 11 is allowable since both Schrock and Tani fail to disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 11.

Claim 12, dependent on claim 11, is allowable at least for its dependency upon claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this art grounds of rejection.

New Claims

New claims 13 and 14 have been added.

Independent claim 13 is allowable because none of the prior art of record disclose or even suggest a "touch panel" that "detects continuous changes in a pressure being applied on a surface thereof and outputting a signal indicative of the continuous changes," and a "controller" that continuously varying a speed of change of a parameter based on the signal, as recited therein.

Claim 14, dependent upon claim 13, is allowable at least for its dependency upon claim 13.

The features claimed in claims 13 and 14 are clearly supported by the statements in page 12, line 4 - page 13, line 3 of the

specification, and illustrated in Fig. 7 of the present application.

Further, claims 4 and 6-8, amended to depend upon claim 13, are allowable at least for their dependency upon claim 13.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of claims 4, 6-8, and 13-14 is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

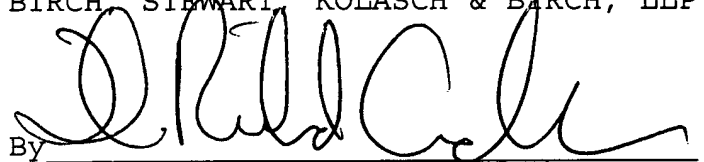
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (Reg. No. 40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/324,778

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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